

Wilderness Trail Report – Island Lake

Name of the person who filled out the form: Molly Travis

Date (s) of visit: 8/13/2014-8/14/2014

Trail Name: Island Lake Trail; Around 7-8 miles each way from parking lot trailhead

Were there trail obstructions? Yes

Were these obstructions navigable by stock animals? No

There is a giant tree with a step notched into it at the 3 mile marker.

There is one large tree (2.5 ft. diameter) that has recently fallen. It is slightly past the 4 mile marker after the south fork river crossing. This is not navigable by stock animals.



The section past the burnt ridge portion of the trail is still brushy with some small logs down (no more than 1 foot in diameter) and full of decomposed granite that makes it hard for stock animals to walk on.

Describe grazing areas/grasses growing.

There is one section good for grazing. It is the pocket meadow within the burnt ridge portion of the trail (around ½ mile from Island Lake). There is grass (type unknown), mallow, berry shrubs, bracken ferns, and other ground cover type plants (unidentified).

Was there water access? Yes

Describe the nature of the water access. (Streams, lakes, spigots, dried up water sources, etc.)

The first source of water is the south fork smith river crossing at the old trail beginning (around the 3 mile marker).

There is a small stream/seep about 3.5 miles in with slow flowing water. This is the last “water” before Island Lake.

At the pocket meadow, there is a small pool of still water, probably from a spring or the recent rains. It makes the meadow damp in certain places. This would be best for grazing animals, not for human consumption.

Island Lake has plenty of water. However, its outlet is dried up.



Campsite locations:

- Campsite quality—surface comfort (flat or sloping, smooth or bumpy, dry or wet, dirt, rock, or sand, etc.), scenic views from site, shaded or open, proximity to water, ease of access to water, water quantity and quality, annoyances (bugs, cattle, cow pies, etc.)
- **Campsite quantity—number and size of sites, number of people/tents that can fit in each site:**

The first camping areas are right before and at the south fork smith river crossing. Before the big log fall at the 3 mile marker, there are a few hidden sites right off the trail and to the left of the tree. There are approximately 4-5 sites that are flat, rocky, and not very close to the water.

At the actual river, there is enough room for 8-10 tents and 10-15+ people. These sites are flat or gently sloping, on dirt, and very close to the water. There is a slight mosquito problem here.

At Island Lake, there is one small exposed campsite along the trail that is rocky (like gravel), flat, and could hold 1-2 tents and/or 2-3 people. Continuing down to the water, there is a medium sized exposed campsite that could hold 1-2 tents and/or 2-3 people. It is also flat and rocky (like gravel) and has a good view of the lake. Both of these require a short jaunt to the lakeshore for water.

At the lakeshore, there are two small camp sites on a social trail along the lake. Both have established fire rings with metal grates. Each can hold about 1 tent, and 1-2 people and are flat and covered (forested). The one on the left of the social trail is rocky (like gravel) and the one on the right is dirt. The latter is great for hammocks! Finally, there is one big campsite along the outlet to the lake behind the forested dirt campsite. It can hold 2-3 tents and/or 3-4 people, and is rocky (like gravel) and exposed. It usually can get water from the outlet although it is currently dried up. I would recommend camping on the left side (trail side) of the outlet instead of crossing it for camping.

List wildlife seen and general location of sighting (mosquitos, bears, snakes, etc.)

A bear was heard stumbling through the forest about 10 minutes from the trailhead. Most wildlife seen were birds, such as mountain quail, grouse, Steller 's jay, Cooper's hawk, juncos, and others.

Trail conditions:

How easy was the trail to follow? (unlabeled forks, absent cairns, indistinct tread, etc.)

The trail is very easy to follow. There are labeled forks, distinct tread, and trail & mile markers throughout the trail. The burnt ridge portion is much easier to follow and there is still orange and pink flagging along it. It is still a very very steep trail after the river crossing until the burnt ridge section.



Were there trail signs? (at forks, at trail head)

There are trail signs at the trailhead, the river crossing, the pocket meadow, and the actual lake.

How navigable were creek crossings?

The river is very easy to cross (it is more like a creek anyways). There is a rock path that you can walk on to cross without taking your shoes off.

Were there any burned over areas?

There is a burnt out ridge about ½ to 1 mile away from the lake. A trail has recently been cleared through it.

Did you see any wildflowers or poison oak?

There is some mallow still in the damper areas but most wildflowers have already died. There is no poison oak.